

FAIR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 17, 2008

The meeting was held on July 17, 2008. Those present were: Dana Escott, Richard Woods, Nick Novich, Troy Martin, Tom Leo, Marilyn Ross, Susan Nelson, Norm Jensen, Matt Kruchel (friends), Jeff Walker.

Minutes from June 26 were read and approved.

The bills were presented. The 4-H heater bill was discussed and Tom didn't think Council would pay the bill, but maybe help out. Nick felt we should use the building since we insulated and have put in the heater. We'll talk to 4-H about that.

Correspondence: letters read from Sr. Pro contestant (thank you and appreciation letter), Commissioners Letter (parking lot at River Side Park letter), and Stephanie Kruer letter (Hagedorns'). The Board said the Kruer letter could be read but no action taken. The letter was delivered at approximately 6:45 pm before the meeting by Dawn Hagedorn and Katie Cox and dropped in the drop box. Marilyn said to send the letter to County attorney (Chris Christensen) and let him respond to Hagedorns. Marilyn said the meetings were noticed at the courthouse and on the county website and Dana said that signs were hung at the Bank, city office, and bulletin board in Twin with time, date and place on them. The discussion that Hagedorns weren't at the last meeting was that they advised per letter of June 24, 2008, that they "would not be able to attend the June 26 meeting since they would be out of town..." Tom asked if the Fair Board was an advisory board under the Commissioner's Board and that we should put building contract on next agenda or September's Agenda to revise. It will be on September's agenda since the next meeting is Fair.

Susan presented a donation from 3RAC to the county for \$2,000 for added money for the NRA Rodeo and explained that Deer Lodge has an additional \$650 added for each event and Billings has an additional \$1,000 added for each event. She stated that 3RAC would like to do an additional event of goat tying and with \$5,000 from county added money and \$2,000 from 3RAC, it would make our added money approximately \$750 per event added with approximately \$400 left over for goat tying, which would put Twin in competition and more competitive with other rodeos. Pete will put it in the newsletter and get it out to contestants.

Gates: Dana said that there had been no action taken on the putting up the gates with concern that people camp and if the gates were locked then the campers would be locked in. Nick thought that Dan Birdsill could look around once in a while with the dog and check things out. The general consensus was that everyone felt that putting up the gates might create more problems and retaliation because the people or kids were locked out. We'll just wait on the gates for now.

Marilyn talked about the use of pepper spray and that if it wasn't used properly or people didn't have the training to use it, that it could be a liability for the county.

Motorcycle track: Matt presented the proposal for the motorcycle flat track. He said they looked at the grounds west of the arena and wanted to see if the Board and others had an interest in a track that this piece of ground would work wonderful. It would be a dirt, flat oval track approximately ¼ mile. He said that they race in Missoula and that these tracks historically have been at the fairgrounds and events have been run in conjunction with fairs. These races are a huge draw, not only for spectators, but for contestants. He will work on a layout and get it to the Board to look over. The track would be a flat dirt track. They would have to possibly haul in some clay to make the track harden up. Matt said that in other places like Missoula, the races are usually a Saturday

or Sunday afternoon in daylight hours and they usually have 45-50 bikes. When the track isn't in use he said you could park cars on it, turn the cattle out on it. The track wouldn't be an isolated spot on the grounds. This track would not be a motocross track, just a flat track. These events have shown from research that they are family events and draw a big crowd which would draw more money to the community. Their events wouldn't be ran at the same time as the horse events. This racing is the oldest form of racing. They are flexible with events. They will draw up plans to scale and we'll move to the next step.

Riverside (Ken Walsh) marked off the parking lot, approx 60' out from board fence.

Wages: Dana was pleased to see that fairgrounds crew wages were brought up to \$12.99, comparable with rest of county and she said that she gave the high school girls an incentive raise from \$6.76 to \$7.00. They are doing a great job and working hard. Dana's proposal of insurance was denied. Marilyn explained that we need to log hours and show that Dana works 17 hours a week and submit it next fiscal year. Because of the way that the job description reads for fair manager in the past, the hours were only part time. Since the fairgrounds is getting so busy, it would be helpful to see the hours put in now and work towards insurance proposal for next year. Marilyn explained about Madison County being the second fastest growing county in the state and that they are expecting the taxable value in Madison County to be approximately \$61,000,000 and the commissioners tried to come up in wages which were fair for everyone. Nick asked if a line item could be adjusted for more wages and Marilyn advised that our board could make the decision to pay extra monies out of a line item for maintenance, etc., in addition to the wages, if they want to. When the new budget comes, Dana will get it out to the Board to look at and they'll decide what to do in September.

Portal Potties bids were presented from Klasen Septic and Nelson Septic for fair. Lowest bidder was Nelson Septic. Tom motioned to have Nelson Septic, Richard seconded, approved.

Parking Lot Grant: Dana mentioned that it would be nice to have the new parking lot in grass and not gravel because of the weed problem. Everyone would rather have grass to camp on and that if it was gravel, it would look like a weed mess. Nick will talk to Smalls and we'll get together after fair and look at it. We need to have a nice picnic area and some gravel for parking, but we'll take another look at it after fair and get some ideas.

Mag Chloride: Dana presented that Steve Warmuth would mag chloride the front of the fairgrounds to the walking path for the same price as last year and donate anything extra if the cost was more. We don't have the budget to chloride the back entrance of the fairgrounds and Riverside decided not to chloride the back entrance.

Jeffers Building: Dana asked about utilizing the Jeffers Building at fair for vendors since there is only the dog/cat show and a 4-H dance on Friday night instead of letting the building sit empty. It was discussed that the supervision was better for the dance in the building and that maybe we could squeeze a few more spots into the Pavilion for vendors for this year.

The next fair board meeting will be August 13, 2008, at noon at the fair office. Lunch provided.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Escott